**Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA)**

**Minutes of the Membership Meeting, September 15, 2016**

*Recorded by Don Schlichtmann*

President Arthur Fox called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

He first introduced Peter Lusk of the Arlington Parks & Rec. Dept., Facilities Div., to discuss the refurbishment of the Aurora Hills Community Center. Mr. Lusk noted the following:

* Restrooms will be made ADA accessible. Reception area to be relocated.
* There will be an 8’ screen with hanging projector available for presentations.
* There will be a whiteboard and audio speakers installed, along with two wireless mics.
* New cabinets, storage, and kitchen appliances to be available for both civic associations (ARCA & AHCA) which use the facility.
* Timeline for the project is Nov. ’16 thru April ’17; Gunston & Oakridge Schools are alternative meeting sites for the interim.

Arthur then introduced Susan Shaw & Amanda Baxter from VDOT, along with Mike McGurk & Rob Kearns from TransUrban, to discuss the conversion from HOV to HOT Toll lanes on I-395.

* Ms. Shaw provided background information regarding access and congestion along I-395 north of Glebe Rd., especially near the Eads St. intersection. She also noted a $15M annual Federal funding guarantee for the project pending final agreement for the project. Final contractual agreement between VDOT & TransUrban is expected in early 2017.
* The estimated $250M project will expand 2 current HOV lanes to 3 HOT toll lanes. Ms. Baxter explained changes planned for the Eads St. intersection with I-395 and also reviewed the roles and responsibilities of VDOT & TransUrban in leading to a final agreement for the project (also available on the VDOT website).
* Ms. Shaw explained the procedures and neighborhood eligibility for I-395 noise abatement. We are eligible for a sound wall along Army-Navy Drive; however, the procedures for final approval are complex and will be further discussed with ARCA membership in the near future. Public hearings on the project are scheduled for Oct. 24 & 26. Project completion is scheduled for late 2019.
* The following questions from the audience were addressed: a) competitive bid process; b) construction noise mitigation; c) sound-barrier design; d) re-paving of ‘thru’ lanes.

Finally, Arthur introduced Congressman Don Beyer, who addressed the audience and took many questions. Mr. Beyer commented that a) no Federal Gov’t. shutdown is anticipated prior to year-end, b) criminal justice reform has bi-partisan support and is a possibility before the election, and c) he is actively involved in air traffic & helicopter noise abatement discussions.

Mr. Beyer went on to say that his priorities for legislation are as follows:

a) ‘pricing’ of carbon, via a tax or otherwise, to address the issue of climate change;

b) gun safety through improved screening of individuals with questionable backgrounds;

c) comprehensive immigration reform;

d) reform of the Congressional process which separates budgeting (Ways & Means Comm.) from appropriations (Appropriations Comm.); and

e) election reform, perhaps using ‘rank order’ voting as an alternative method.

Mr. Beyer also addressed numerous questions that are not reflected in these minutes.

There being no further business, Arthur adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.